

## WHAT DOES PGM MEAN?

What was wrong with the term BAME?

The term BAME, standing for Black, Asian, and other Minority Ethnicity, is troublesome for a couple of reasons:

### **Not made by those who it classifies**

Firstly, the term BAME was made by individuals not part of this classification. A Black person will not refer to themselves as BAME, neither an Asian person, nor any person of any ethnicity. This highlights its function, to group those who aren't White & British.

### **Being called a minority has a negative effect on mental health**

Secondly, perhaps unsurprisingly, being labelled a minority has been shown to have consequences for a person's mental health, be it self-esteem and confidence, a contributing factor to depression, or even to trauma. Generally it belittles you and can make your opinions, outcomes, and ideas seem less valuable than they really are.

### **Overlooks other discriminated ethnic groups**

Thirdly, the fact that its use is not in reference to White individuals, it reflects the homogenisation of any ethnic groups that are not White. Which overlooks other groups often marginalised in the UK, i.e. those from Eastern Europe and Roma groups.

### **Homogenises cultures into “Black” and “Asian” when they face very different challenges**

On the point of homogenisation. Asia is home to over half of the world's population. To classify so many different cultures and peoples into one group (Asian) is nearly absurd.

### **Doesn't account for discrimination on the basis of religion**

Finally, it overlooks other discriminatory problems the UK has, that aren't on the basis of race or ethnicity. Especially, antisemitism and Islamophobia.

PGM over BAME doesn't solve all these issues, but at least it's a start.